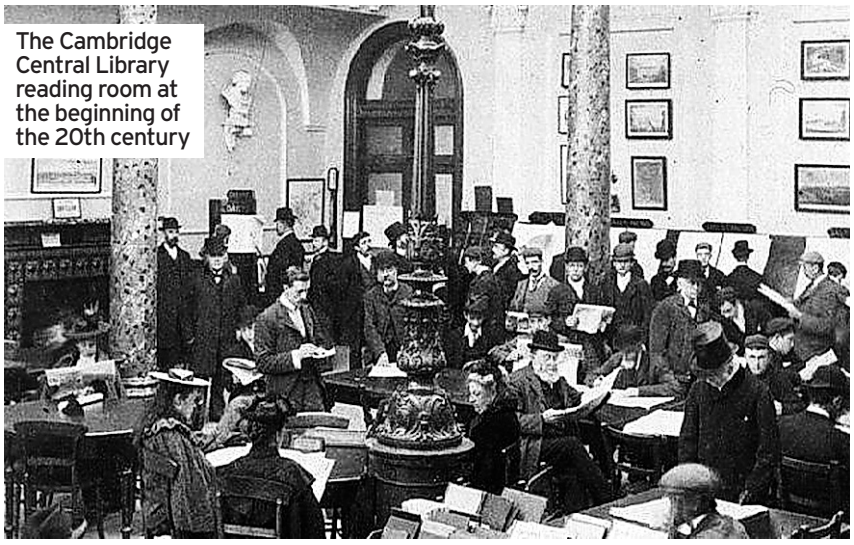
Get in touch
If any of our pictures bring back memories for you, let us know by emailing james.milner@reachplc.com



The Cambridge Central Library reading room at the beginning of the 20th century

Pressing need for library extension – 1907

CAMBRIDGE Central Library reading room opened in 1884 but has now fallen behind many towns of similar size.

The lending department is already inconveniently crowded with bookcases and provision has to be made each year for about 84 additional feet of shelf-room.

The reference library contains a Shakespeare library and an important Cambridge collection which are accommodated in galleries in the lending department while the rest of the reference library is placed in the reading room along with the newspapers and magazines.

They also have many old books, prints and artistic works they are unable to exhibit and cannot give the community the full enjoyment of their own possessions.

At the meeting of the library association held in Cambridge in 1905, resolutions were past "that special libraries for children should be established in all public libraries" and "that every library should contain some room in which discussions and lectures could be held" but the central library is without such facilities.

There is a pressing need for an extension of its premises.

Sun comes out to rescue May Week – 1904

DURING 'May' Week, the permanent part of the population takes much coin of the realm from the floating part but, this year, visitors seemed likely to be well down because of the weather.

Then, on Thursday, sunbeams brought a large number of visitors bringing with them awe-inspiring loads of luggage.

Airy dresses of muslin and chiffon and a boating excursion are inseparable to the feminine.

They were very comfortable during the all-too-brief spell of sunshine but then the ladies grew colder and colder until, in desperation, they gratefully accepted loans of jackets and even overcoats from their male escorts.

Thus the racing was not as picturesque as it might have been.

Fire hits photographic premises – 1898

A SMALL fire occurred at the premises of Messrs Thomas Stearn and Son, photographers, at Bridge Street, Cambridge.

The conflagration broke out in the darkroom and was probably caused by woodwork becoming overheated by gas.

A considerable amount of photographic apparatus was destroyed by the flames, and some of the chemicals exploded with some violence in the heat.

About 16 firemen turned out with a hose cart and three reels, causing no little excitement in the neighbourhood but, by the time they arrived on the scene, the outbreak had already been extinguished by the inmates, by means of buckets.

The Bridge Street premises of Thomas Stearn and Son

It eventually turned out nice for May Week in 1904

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